

# What Chronic Homelessness Looks Like in Portland

*These statistics are drawn from the 2017 Point in Time Count in Portland/Multnomah County.*

## Population Statistics

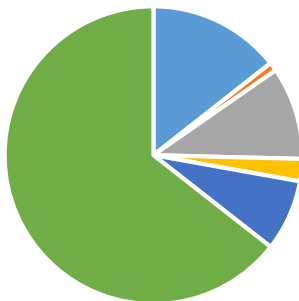
Overall, approximately **31% of the area’s homeless population is considered chronic**. Among major West Coast cities, Los Angeles has the highest rate of chronic homelessness at 34%. Nationally, the chronic homelessness rate is 24%.

A significant majority (71%) of chronically homeless people remain **unsheltered**, but that is down from almost 85% in 2015.

Nearly all chronically homeless people are adults. Of these, men make up just over two-thirds (66.6%), while **women account for 30.3%**.

Slightly under two-fifths (33.9%) of all **veterans** in the PIT count were chronically homeless. This is a drop of 10.1% from 2015.

## Percentages Race/Ethnicity of Chronically Homeless



- American Indian/Alaska Native 14.3%
- Asian 1%
- Black/African American 10%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander 2.4%
- Hispanic/Latino 7.7%
- White 64%

## WHAT IS CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS?

**A Chronically Homeless Individual** refers to an individual who: a) has been continuously homeless for one year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and b) can be diagnosed with one or more disabling conditions, including: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, or chronic physical illness or disability.

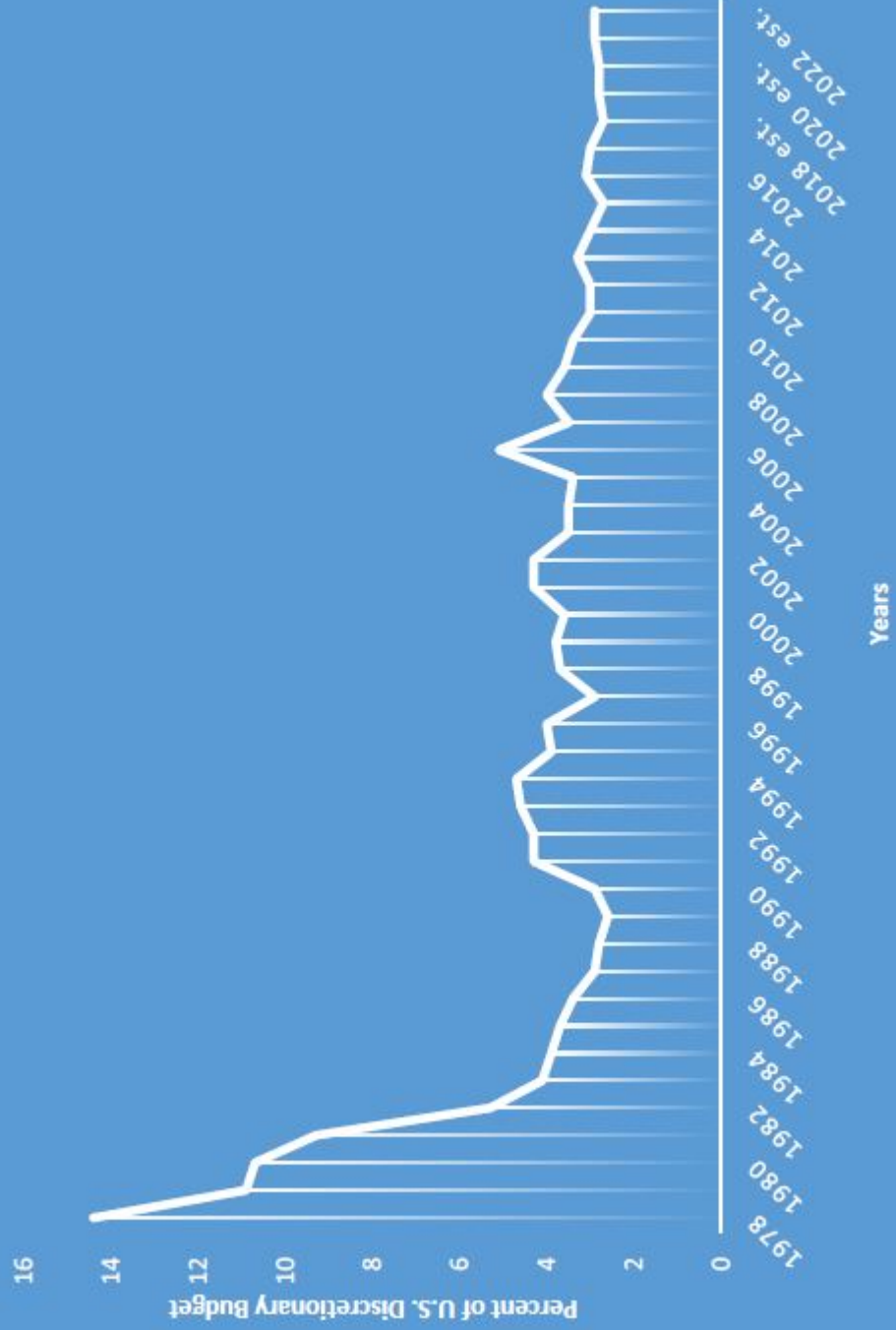
## Disabilities Statistics

A sizable majority (71.6%) of the overall unsheltered population self-reported as having one or more disabling conditions, including:

- Mental illness (44.8%)
- Physical disabilities (38.0%)
- Substance abuse disorders (37.5%)
- Chronic health conditions (26.3%)

*Note: As information about disabilities within the chronically homeless population is not available, these statistics pertain to the overall unsheltered population (of which 55% were chronically homeless).*

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
PERCENTAGE OF U.S. DISCRETIONARY BUDGET\***



\* from Percentage Distribution of Discretionary Budget Authority: 1976-2022 [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)